

"Talk of the Town"

*The Newsletter of the Belle Fourche
Chamber of Commerce*

MARCH 2008

ISSUE 91

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ? Economic Indicators Page 3
- ? Director's Comments Page 4
- ? Membership pages 6 & 7
- ? Easter Egg Hunt
- ? Calendar Page 11

UP COMING EVENTS:

MAR. 3 CHAMBER CLOSED

MAR. 9 DAYLIGHT SAVING

MAR 10 CHAMBER CLOSED

**MAR. 15 TRI-STATE MUSEUM
FOUNDATION BANQUET**

MAR 17 ST PATRICK'S DAY

**MAR. 19 BH FITNESS RIBBON
CUTTING 4PM**

**MAR. 22 EASTER EGG HUNT
11AM**

**MAR. 22 BFACC POOL GRAND
REOPENING 12 PM**

MAR. 23 EASTER SUNDAY

MAR. 24 CHAMBER CLOSED

February's been busy...

The Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce held their 97th Annual Chamber Banquet at Boomba on February 17th. The evening was filled with entertainment and lots of laughs as the Chamber celebrated their accomplishments and gave awards to outstanding businesses and individuals. Over 140 people were in attendance for the elegant evening. In the photo below Jeff Otterman hands Mark Leverington, the new 2008 Chamber President his official gavel and gives some words of advice on how to handle his upcoming year of leadership.



A big thanks goes out to our Annual Banquet Sponsors. They were Day Morris Law Firm, First Western Bank, Pioneer Bank & Trust, Wells Fargo Bank, Century 21/Dakota Belle, Ring Container, Pamida, Suds n Duds and Northern Hills Federal Credit Union.

☞ WHERE YOU & THE WEST ARE ONE ☞

More Banquet...



Jan Schopp, manager of Pizza Hut receives the Retail Business of the Year award from President Mark Leverington.



Belle Fourche Post and Bee was nominated by local Belle Fourche chamber members to receive the Service Business of the Year Award. Pictured from left to right are Carla Dailey, Faye Kennedy, Chamber President, Mark Leverington, Chrisann Mateer, Milo Dailey and Mike Gussiass.



Pioneer Bank & Trust received the Employer of the Year award. Pictured are Chamber President, Mark Leverington, Clay Birkland, Pioneer Bank & Trust and Chamber Executive Teresa Schanzenbach. Schanzenbach also served as the emcee for the evening's festivities.

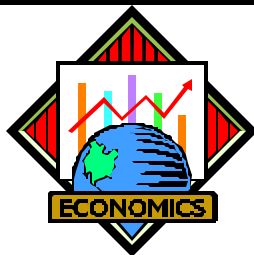


Cal & Pearl Geis were the recipients of the Chamber's Lifetime Member Award.

More pictures on page 8

Belle Fourche Economic Indicators (2007)

Building Permits	January 2007	January 2008	2007 Totals	2008 Totals
New Housing Units	1	0	25	0
Permit Fees	\$1569.50	\$1,500.00	\$37,512.90	\$1,500.00
# Permits Issued	8	9	224	8
Commercial-New	\$52,000.00	\$108,000.00	\$2,996,700.00	\$108,000.00
Commercial Additions	\$52,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$1,225,219.37	\$21,000.00
Construction Values	\$240,000.00	\$181,000.00	\$6,154,477.86	\$181,000.00



Sales Taxes Report

Total Sales Tax for 2005

\$1,611,049.92

Total Sales Tax for 2006

\$1,791,211.64

YTD Sales Tax for 2007

\$1,856,235.47 change of \$65,023.83



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Broker Associate
605-645-9051



Debra Stewart
Broker Associate
605-645-9684



Mike Konstant
Broker Associate
605-641-0094



Here's The Deal...

Teresa Schanzenbach, Executive Director

When I wrote last month's newsletter I was getting ready to go to Virginia Beach to attend the American Bus Association (ABA) Conference and I stated I would update you upon my return. I can now tell you it was a great experience. I have been to many conferences over the past few years but this by far was the most organized and professionally run. Not to mention it was huge!

The ABA Marketplace is the premier business event for the group travel industry. The appointments are the core of the show; which allow buyers and sellers to meet face-to-face in prescheduled seven-minute appointments. In addition to the quality appointments, Marketplace offers professional education seminars and numerous networking opportunities. The final statistics showed that 3302 delegates attended ABA this year; the largest number to date. Of that number, 713 Destination Marketing Organizations (such as Chamber and Convention and Visitor Bureaus (CVB's), 657 lodging businesses and 864 attractions were on hand to market themselves to 717 buyers. Buyers were comprised of tour operators and businesses associated with bus travel.

ABA is about building relationships and earning the trust and respect of the tour operators. As a first-timer, I did not anticipate getting any tours to stop through Belle Fourche this year. After all, most of the 2008 tour agendas have already been planned and are being marketed and sold. With that in mind, I was pleasantly surprised to receive a phone call the other day from a tour operator that I met while at ABA. He wants to include Belle Fourche on his tour agenda this September. The bus group will only come in for a couple of hours but it is a start and a great way to further kindle the relationship for something more complex in the future.

More partnerships were also built with fellow tourism professionals from SD. Noreen from Black Hills Badlands and Lakes and Vicki from SD Tourism, Philys from Deadwood and Jo from Spearfish were promoting Belle Fourche right along with me. In return I was promoting them. It was very much a group effort to get bus tours to SD.

In a nutshell, it is all about networking. When a person is willing to help someone else they too are rewarded. It takes time and energy to build quality business relationships, but in the end cooperation is the essence of progress. It does not happen overnight. As a business person I hope you are taking the time to nurture business relationships and cross promote within Belle Fourche.

These other partnerships within the state have already reaped rewards. In April, Belle Fourche will host a portion of the Rocky Mountain International tour operator's familiarization tour. Operators from Europe and the UK will be in Belle Fourche taking in the sights of the area. If we do well, they may decide to promote us and we can get international travelers to our area. In May we will be hosting the Society of Travel Writers. This group of writers will also be on a tour of the area and with any luck will like what they see and love the hospitality they receive. Continuing to build relationships will be the key to foster the tourism industry in Belle Fourche.



The Governor's Economic Development Conference begins on April 8th, 2008 in Pierre .
The deadline to register is March 28, 2008.

Go to <http://www.sdreadytowork.com/2008conf/index.asp> for a complete itinerary
and registration information.



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Congratulations
to
Rick Michels
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The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) helps new entrepreneurs realize their dream of business ownership and assists existing businesses in their efforts to remain competitive."

The Small Business Development Center Representative, Eric Christianson, will be at the Chamber on **March 18** to provide business consulting for new or existing businesses. If you need help with a current or expanding business idea, call the Chamber at 892-2676 for an appointment .

New Members

Butte County Historical Society

Eleanor Marousek
1119 Elkhorn Street
Belle Fourche, SD 57717
605-892-2507

Black Hills Signs & Banners

Marty
536 W. Jackson Blvd.
Spearfish, SD 57783
605-717-2393
Wwww.bhsigns.com

Scoot Inn

Liana Swan
18977 Black Angus Lane
Belle Fourche, SD 57717
605-892-2660
Wwww.scootinn.com
contactus@scootinn.com

Modern Woodmen of America

Robert J Aiken
3408 So. 11th Ave
Spearfish, SD 57783
605-391-2513

"When you invest in the Chamber you invest in your Community!"

Renewal

Arlene Bowman ~ Kevin & Mary Buchholz ~ Queen
City Medical Center ~ North Hills Federal Credit Un-
ion ~ First Western Bank ~ MSI ~ Artemis House ~ Luders ~ Deadwood
Gulch Resorts ~ Center of the Nation Sportsman Club ~ Prime Entertain-
ment Communications ~ BH Pioneer/ Weekly Prospector ~ Post & Bee ~
Livingston Plumbing ~ Cynthia Matson ~ Pioneer Bank & Trust ~ Belle
Fourche Country Club ~ Ring Container ~ Roundup Building Center ~
EMC Development ~ Subway ~

Don't forget to check out our website, www.bellefourchechamber.com for up-to-date information, our newest members, and to see what is happening in Belle Fourche! Got an event coming up? Don't assume we know about it. Give us a call so we can place it on the web site event calendar for all to see.



Dear Belle Fourche Chamber-

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for sponsoring the great goody basket that I received at my Miss Rodeo SD Coronation. Your support means the world to me, and I hope to make you proud!

Sincerely, Tara Trask

Chamber Team:

Thank you for your support @ my ribbon cutting!

Sincerely Tamera Stanley

To the Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce Board, Staff and Members,

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to you all for the honor of being chosen the 2008 Service Business of the Year. The never-ending work of producing the local newspaper becomes more of a way of life than just a job, as evidenced by our publisher emeritus Faye Kennedy. We were so proud to have her be with us at the banquet and stand up with our staff. She has been a guiding light for many years at the Belle Fourche Post & Bee and we continue to learn from her.

Our entire staff thanks you for this honor and we pledge to continue covering the news and events of Belle Fourche and the Tri-State area.

Chrisann Mateer

Publisher

Belle Fourche Post & Bee

Ribbon Cuttings!



Tamera Stanley of Modern Woodmen of America cuts the ribbon on her new business at a ceremony held at the Chamber office .

And even more Banquet pictures



2006 Past President and Chamber Board Director Todd Watson of Hoseth Auto Electric receives recognition for serving a three year term. Mary Riley of Office Emporium was also recognized for her service to the Chamber.



The High School Volunteer Group received the Chamber Volunteer of the Year Award. Pictured from left to right is Belle Fourche School Counselor, Jeff Coldwell, students Liz Enszt, Margo Enszt and Chamber President Mark Leverington. The volunteer group helped the Chamber out in 2007 with such events as the annual Parade of Lights and free community chili feed and the annual Easter Egg Hunt. The entire high school volunteer group will receive a pizza party later in the year, compliments of the Chamber.



Dr. Trimble of Black Hills Vision Care, far left, and Duke Boston, far right of State Farm Insurance receive the Community Pride Award. Pictured with them are Liz and Margo Enszt and Chamber President Mark Leverington.



Mike Day and Lynn Hammerstrom received "special attention" from Loretta Lynn and Dolly Parton, played in drag by Jason Pratt, Sioux Falls and Jesse Schanzenbach of Brookings. Pre-dinner music for the evening was provided by Kenny Miller of Deadwood and Jesse Schanzenbach, sang "Live Like You Were Dying" a tribute song to Leverington and Otterman. Most of the evening was highlighted with music and power point pictures.



Belle Fourche Area Community Center

Invites one and all to it's

GRAND REOPENING

Of the Community Swimming Pool

March 22, 2008

Ribbon Cutting 12:00 pm

Come out and take a plunge!



Live and Learn!

How to Help a Grieving Friend with Mark Leverington

Learn tools to help a friend or loved one who has suffered a loss, 1 session, \$19, Thursday, 3/13, 6:30 – 8:30PM, Funeral Home of the Northern Hills, 715 National Street

To register:

- 1. Online at www.clccommed.org with credit card**
- 2. Stop by the Chamber to pick up booklets, view classes and register online with credit card.**
- 3. call 394-5120 or 1-800-518-0511 in SD**

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Easter Egg Hunt

March 22nd at 11 am Sharp!

Please join us for the 2008 Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March, 22nd at 11am SHARP at the Belle Fourche Softball Complex just south of Roundup Street. We have called the Easter Bunny and he is planning on attending the event. Prizes, treats, and eggs will be available for kids in the following age groups: 0-2 and special needs, 3-4, 5-6, and 7-9.

We look forward to seeing you all there!



**Thanks to the following for sponsoring the
2008 Easter Egg Hunt.**

Bennett, Main & Gubbrud
Day Morris Law Firm
Motive Parts & Supply
Northern Hills FCU
Tim Speidel Business & Tax Svc

Belle Fourche Regional Senior Care
First Western Bank
MSI/Tru-Catch
Office Emporium
Wells Fargo Bank, NA

**It isn't too late to become a sponsor for this wonderful event!
The kids will love you for it!!**



March 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Chamber Closed for Spring Cleaning  City Council	4	5	6	7	8
9 Daylight Savings Begins 	10 Chamber Closed for Spring Cleaning	11  Chamber Board Meeting 7am	12	13	14	15 Tri-State Museum Foundation Banquet
16	17 St. Patrick's Day  City Council	18  EDC Meeting	19 BH Fitness Ribbon Cutting 4pm	20	21 Good Friday	22  Easter Egg Hunt 11am BFACC Pool Ribbon Cutting 12pm 
23 Easter Sunday /30	24 Chamber Closed /31	25	26	27	28	29



The Newsletter of the Belle Fourche
Chamber of Commerce

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2007 Chamber Board of Directors

Officers

President	Mark Leverington(09)
Vice President	Marty Leibel (11)
Past President	Jeff Otterman (08)

Directors

Jenny Scholl (11)	Wade Pehl (08)
Scott Geis (09)	Tracey Gallagher(11)
Trygve Nelson(08)	Ashley Pearson (09)
Frances Hays - City Council Representative	

Staff

Teresa Schanzenbach	Executive Director
Tracy Shellhammer	Marketing/Events
Gregg Galea	Office Representative

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www.bellefourchechamber.com

chamber@bellefourche.org

Phone: (605) 892-2676 Fax:(605)892-4633

415 5th Ave., Belle Fourche, SD 57717

The Bisgaard Team
Your Belle Fourche Real Estate Connection

Renee Bisgaard

(605) 641-9242

Email: reneeb@dakotabelle.com

Heidi Woelber-Assistant

(605) 645-2747

Email: heidiewoelber@hotmail.com

Website: bisgaardteam.com



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\$240,000

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